DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 458 021 PS 029 870

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TITLE	The Changing Faces of Arkansas' Children. Special Report.
INSTITUTION	Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, Little Rock.
SPONS AGENCY	Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, MD.
PUB DATE	2001-10-00
NOTE	17p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, 523 S. Louisiana, Suite 700, Little Rock, AR 72201. Tel: 501-371-9678; Web site: http://www.aradvocates.org.
PUB TYPE	Numerical/Quantitative Data (110) -- Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	American Indians; Asian Americans; Black Youth; *Children; Comparative Analysis; *Counties; *Demography; *Ethnic Groups; Hispanic Americans; Pacific Islanders; Trend Analysis
IDENTIFIERS	*Arkansas

ABSTRACT

This special Kids Count report provides information on the changing demographic characteristics of children in Arkansas, based on data from the 2000 Census. Current and trend data are detailed by county for child population growth between 1990 and 2000, child percentage of the population, and child population growth by race or ethnic group. Completing the document are tables delineating percent change in the child population by ethnicity and county between 1990 and 2000, as well as 2000 child population by county and race. Key findings indicate that the Arkansas child population increase lags behind the total population increase, with the percentage of children in the population decreasing. Larger counties have more racially diverse populations than smaller counties. The Hispanic child population increased 330 percent between 1990 and 2000. (KB)

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SPECIAL REPORT

THE CHANGING FACES OF ARKANSAS' CHILDREN

Arkansas Advocates
for Children & Families

October 2001

PS 029870

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Arkansas kids count

Key Findings:

- The 9.8% child population increase lags behind the total population increase (13.7%).
- The Hispanic child population has increased significantly (330%).
- Arkansas is aging, as the percentage of children is decreasing (from 26.4% to 25.4%).
- The state's larger counties have more racially diverse populations.

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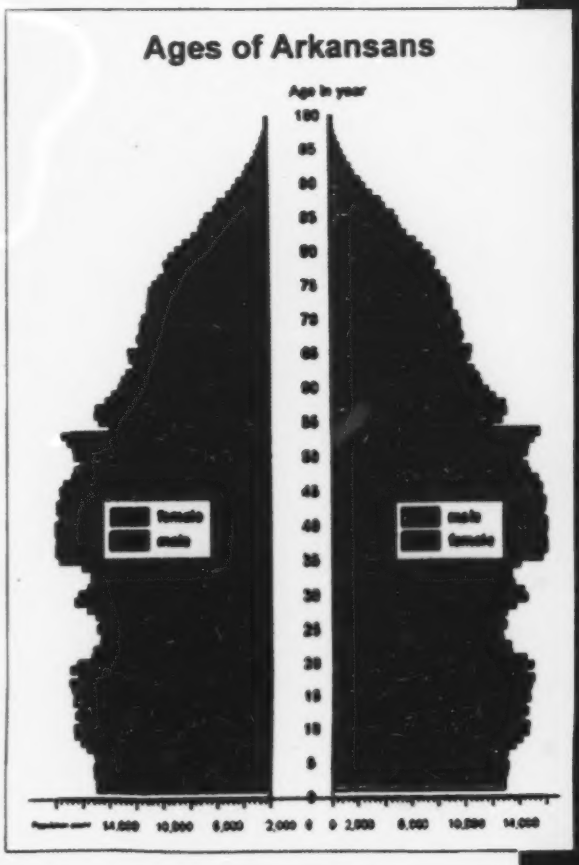
In March, the U.S. Census Bureau



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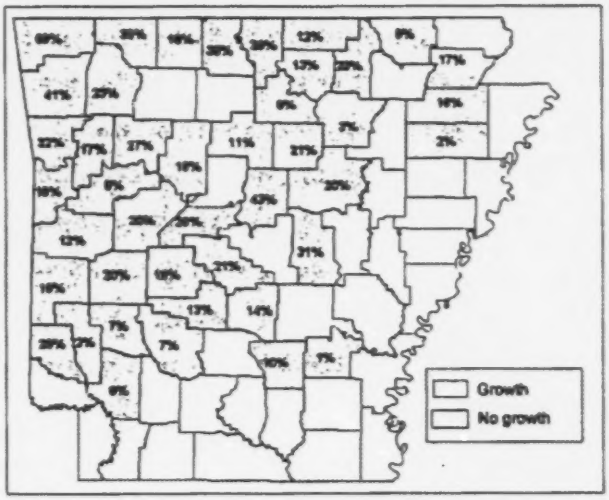
Growth in Child Population

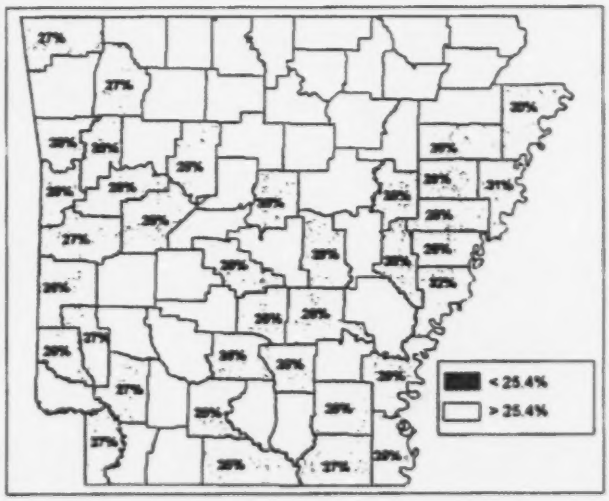


The number of children in Arkansas increased from 621,131 in 1990 to 680,369 in 2000.

This 9.5 percent increase lags behind the 13.7 percent growth recorded by the whole Arkansas population. This shows the state is aging — Arkansas' median age was 33.8 in 1990 and 36 in 2001.

Compared to 1990, the number of children decreased in 32 counties, and increased in 43. The child population in Benton County increased by 16,637 (69%), ranking it 1st in percentage and actual number growth. Washington County's child population increased by 11,452 (41%), ranking it 2nd in child population growth. Most of the counties with increases are in the northern and western parts of the state.

Children's Share of the Whole Population



In 1990, children constituted 26.4 percent of the population. A decade later, they make up 25.4 percent of the population.

Of Arkansas' 75 counties, 61 recorded a decrease in the share of its population comprised by children. The counties with the greatest decrease in child proportion of the population are St. Francis, Lee and Chicot.

In 10 counties, children have increased their percentage in the population. Benton and Sevier counties recorded the highest increase at 2 percent.

Largest Decreases in Children's Share of the Population

County	1990	2000
St. Francis	33%	28%
Lee	34%	26%
Chicot	32%	28%

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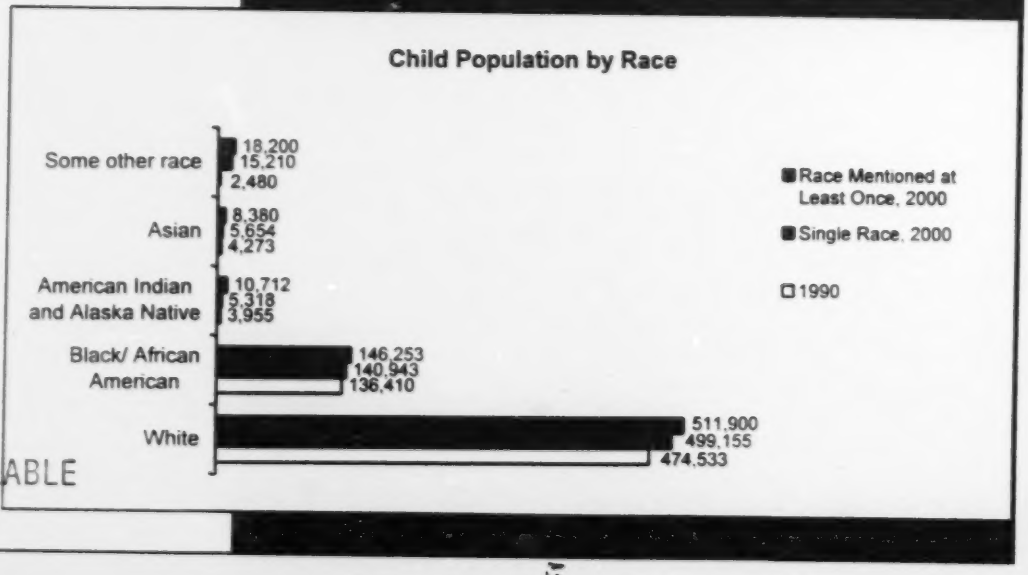
Multiracial and Ethnic Children

Population of 1 race	666,280
Population of 2 races	13,208
Population of 3 races	799
Population of 4 races	46
Population of 5 races	33
Population of 6 races	3
Total	**680,369**

Race	Growth
White	5.2%
Black/ African American	3.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native	34.5%
Asian**	32.3%
Some other race	513.3%

*This is the least growth in each of the racial groups because the measure uses just the single race population in 2000 and compares this to the 1990 population for each race
** For the purpose of comparison, the "Asian" and "Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders" groups are combined since they were grouped together in 1990



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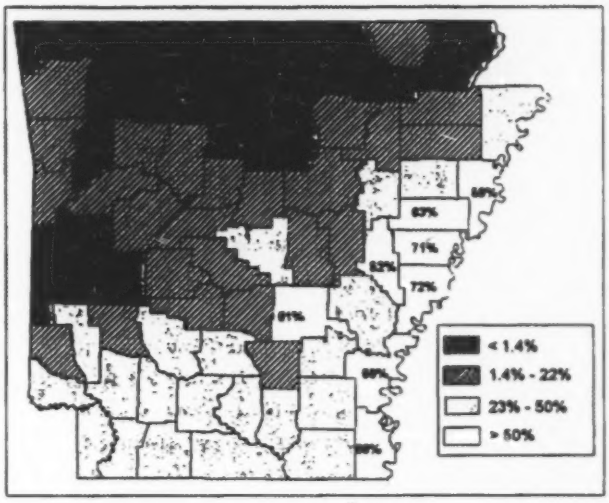
Black/ African American Child Population*



Black/ African American children constitute 21.5 percent of Arkansas' children. This population has witnessed limited growth since the 1990 Census.

The population of Black/ African American children continues to be significantly higher in the Delta — where more than 80 percent of this population live. More than half of the children in Crittenden, St. Francis, Monroe, Phillip, Lee, Chicot, Desha and Jefferson counties are Black/ African American. More than a quarter of the state's Black/ African American children live in Pulaski County, which is also considered by the Census as part of the Delta.

Sebastian, Washington and Crawford counties are the only counties in Northwest Arkansas where up to 2 percent of their children are Black/ African American. The other northern and northwestern counties have less than 1 percent.

* This analysis uses the population that selects "Black/ African American" at least once.

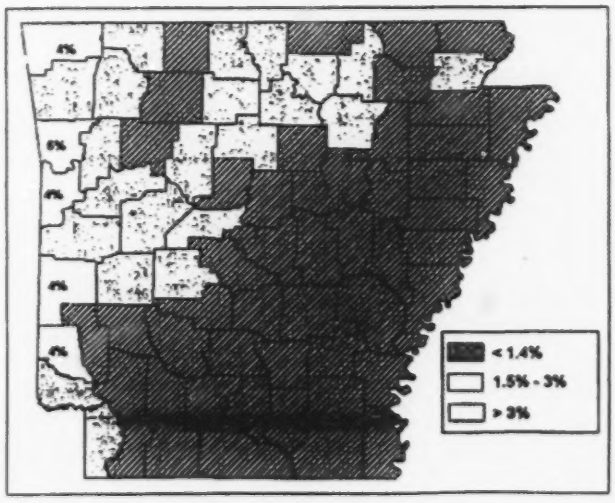
Black/ African American Child Population

Race	Number
African American only	140,943
African American + some other race	146,253

American Indian and Alaska Native Child Population*

American Indian children constitute 1.6 percent of the total child population in Arkansas, a decided self-reported increase since 1990. American Indian children are concentrated in Northwest Arkansas — more than half of American Indian and Native Alaskan children in the state live in that region. Crawford County has the highest share of this population (5%). More that 3 percent of children in four other northwestern counties — Benton, Sebastian, Sevier and Polk — are American Indian and Alaska Native.

* This analysis uses the population that selects "American Indian and Alaska Native" at least once.



American Indian and Alaska Native Child Population

Race	Number
American Indian and Alaska Native only	5,318
American Indian + some other race	10,712

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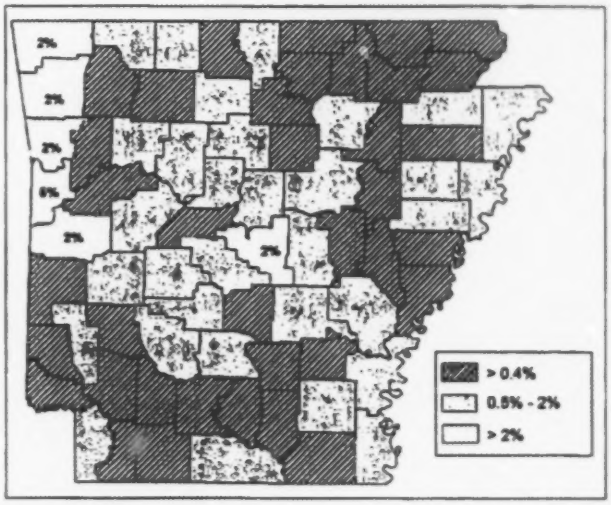
Asian Child Population*



Asian children make up 1.1 percent of all Arkansas children, according to the 2000 Census. Their composition across counties varies from 0.1 percent to 4.7 percent in Sebastian County.

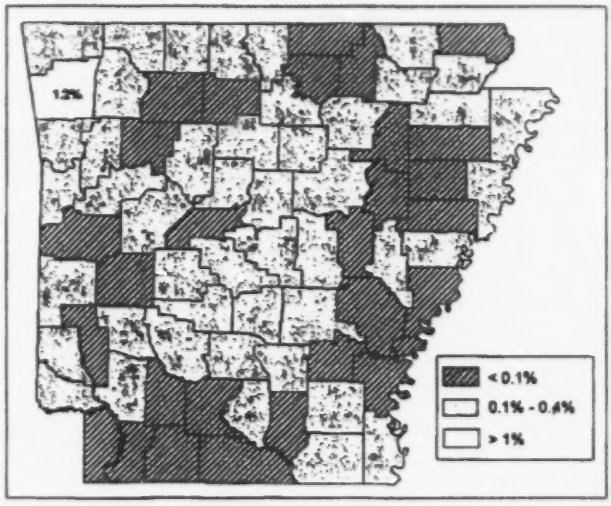
Asian children make up less than 0.5 percent of children in almost half of the state's counties. Asian children are represented in all regions of the state, although higher percentages of the state's Asian children live in Northwest Arkansas. Pulaski County in Central Arkansas reports more than 1.5 percent of its children as Asians.

* This analysis uses the population that selects "Asian" at least once.

Asian Child Population

Race	Number
Asian only	5,043
Asian + some other race	7,293

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Child Population*



Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander makes up 0.2 percent of Arkansas' children. Ten counties do not report any Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander children living there. Eighteen other counties report less than 10 Native Hawaiian children living there, resulting in 0 percent of their child population.

Only in Washington County do more than 1 percent of its children identify themselves as Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Crawford, Pulaski and Benton counties are home to more than 60 percent of state's Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population.

* This analysis uses the population that selects "Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander" at least once.

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Child Population

Race	Number
Native Hawaiian only	611
Native Hawaiian + some other race	1,087

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Some Other Race Child Population*

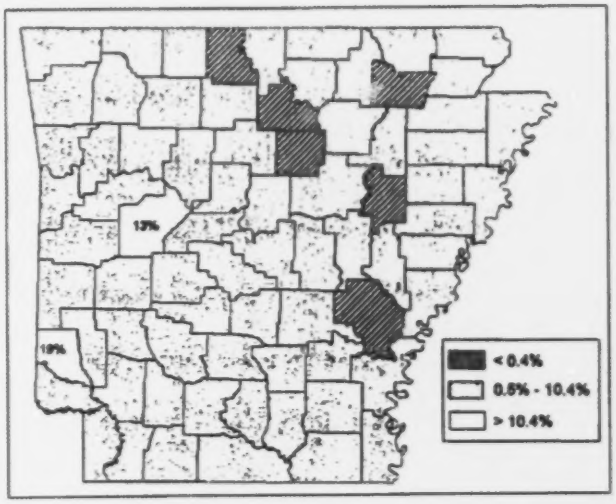
Almost 3 percent (2.7%) of Arkansans report their children to be Some Other Race from the more specific racial categories.

At least one child in every county is considered to be Some Other Race. Only Yell and Sevier counties have children of Some Other Race composing more than 10.4 percent of their populations. Most other counties have between 0.5 percent and 10.4 percent.

* This analysis uses the population that selects "Some Other Race" at least once.

Some Other Race Child Population

Race	Number
Some Other Race only	15,210
Some Other Race + other races	18,200



Ethnic Hispanic Child Population

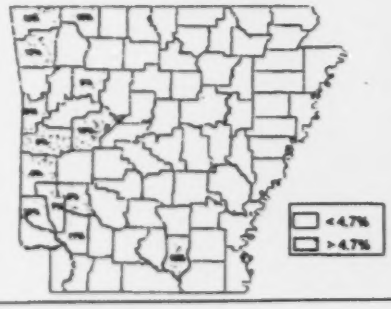
Arkansas has recorded significant growth in its Hispanic population. The Hispanic child population has grown by 330 percent in the last decade. The 2000 Census reports 32,016 Hispanic children in Arkansas, comprising 4.7 percent of the total child population. Hispanic child populations increased in all counties except Lee.

In 1990, 17 counties were above the state average (1.2%) proportion of Hispanic children. In 2000, 12 counties had Hispanic child populations above the state average (4.7%); Hispanic children constitute a significant percentage of the child population in most of these counties.

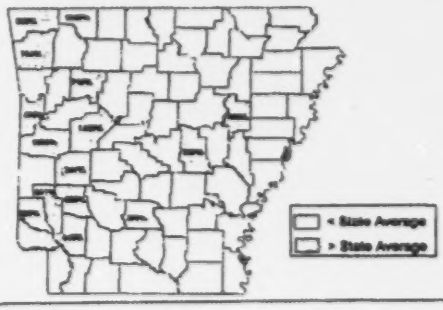
Fifteen counties recorded more than the average state increase (330%), with some — such as Carroll, Yell and Scott — recording more than a 1,000 percent growth in their Hispanic child population.

Other counties with more than a 330 percent increase in their Hispanic child population are Benton, Washington, Johnson, Hempstead, Pike, Howard, Sevier, Sebastian, Woodruff, Dallas, Lonoke and Montgomery. Most of these counties are in West Arkansas.

Hispanic Child Population



Growth in Hispanic Child Population



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Changes in Arkansas Child Population by Ethnicity, 1990-2000

	2000 Population Under 18		1990 Population Under 18		Percent Change 1990-2000	
	Hispanic	Total	Hispanic	Total	Hispanic	Total
Arkansas	38	5,150	22	5942	72.7	-13.3
Ashley	289	6,491	101	6851	186.1	-5.3
Baxter	140	7,281	61	6067	129.5	20
Benton	5,386	40,821	495	24184	988.1	68.8
Boone	135	8,123	63	7016	114.3	15.8
Bradley	281	2,968	88	3047	219.3	-2.6
Calhoun	35	1,415	16	1568	118.8	-9.8
Carroll	914	6,080	80	4521	1042.5	34.5
Chicot	151	3,876	61	5086	147.5	-23.8
Clark	197	5,104	49	4789	302	6.6
Clay	61	4,068	21	4173	190.5	-2.5
Cleburne	93	5,122	42	4218	121.4	21.4
Cleveland	40	2,242	15	2046	166.7	9.6
Columbia	61	6,420	24	6733	154.2	-4.6
Conway	135	5,169	48	5206	181.3	-0.7
Craighead	608	19,809	152	17034	300	16.3
Crawford	751	15,032	202	12340	271.8	21.8
Crittenden	253	15,834	110	15925	130	-0.6
Cross	68	5,435	50	5817	36	-6.6
Dallas	68	2,410	14	2554	385.7	-5.6
Desha	188	4,428	58	5324	224.1	-16.8
Drew	134	4,832	41	4829	226.8	0.1
Faulkner	543	22,006	139	15345	290.6	43.4
Franklin	101	4,591	65	3911	55.4	17.4
Fulton	26	2,650	7	2365	271.4	12.1
Garland	750	18,759	286	15817	162.2	18.6
Grant	73	4,268	29	3744	151.7	14
Greene	160	9,411	69	8015	131.9	17.4
Hempstead	727	6,446	102	5985	612.7	7.7
Hot Spring	183	7,608	61	6757	200	12.6
Howard	267	3,840	41	3751	551.2	2.4
Independence	186	8,396	66	8193	181.8	2.5
Izard	51	2,768	27	2448	88.9	13.1
Jackson	74	4,081	20	4864	270	-16.1
Jefferson	275	22,161	166	24155	65.7	-8.3
Johnson	524	5,733	64	4509	718.8	27.1

Lafayette	29	2,174	16	2667	81.3	-18.5
Lawrence	51	4,258	19	4300	168.4	-1
Lee	54	3,277	78	4392	-30.8	-25.4
Lincoln	105	3,215	27	3184	288.9	1
Little River	101	3,430	42	3929	140.5	-12.7
Logan	101	5,824	55	5551	83.6	4.9
Lonoke	373	15,188	85	11566	338.8	31.3
Madison	155	3,817	60	3115	158.3	22.5
Marion	42	3,571	21	2635	100	35.5
Miller	244	10,734	116	10927	110.3	-1.8
Mississippi	480	15,407	302	18002	58.9	-14.4
Monroe	46	2,862	13	3341	253.8	-14.3
Montgomery	97	2,174	22	1811	340.9	20
Nevada	60	2,509	28	2740	114.3	-8.4
Newton	42	2,142	22	2143	90.9	0
Ouachita	70	7,453	48	8258	45.8	-9.7
Perry	53	2,586	20	2020	165	28
Phillips	154	8,513	93	9869	65.6	-13.7
Pike	156	2,816	22	2633	609.1	7
Poinsett	165	6,684	55	6576	200	1.6
Polk	283	5,174	113	4461	150.4	16
Pope	454	13,900	155	12077	192.9	15.1
Prairie	28	2,284	12	2463	133.3	-7.3
Pulaski	2,901	91,210	1089	91743	166.4	-0.6
Randolph	65	4,479	29	4248	124.1	5.4
St. Francis	131	8,193	89	9394	47.2	-12.8
Saline	421	21,276	156	17528	169.9	21.4
Scott	222	2,919	13	2600	1607.7	12.3
Searcy	42	1,873	17	1908	147.1	-1.8
Sebastian	2,988	29,937	524	25950	470.2	15.4
Sevier	1,302	4,446	214	3565	508.4	24.7
Sharp	68	3,747	20	3055	240	22.7
Stone	41	2,557	22	2368	86.4	8
Union	169	11,832	66	12814	156.1	-7.7
Van Buren	76	3,487	54	3131	40.7	11.4
Washington	4,904	39,492	575	28040	752.9	40.8
White	393	16,376	130	13699	202.3	19.5
Woodruff	25	2,274	5	2743	400	-17.1
Yell	959	5,451	63	4556	1422.2	19.6
STATE	**32,016**	**680,369**	**7448**	**621131**	**330**	**9.5**

Arkansas Child Population by Race, Census 2000

	1 Race	White only	Black only	American Indian and Alaska Native only	Asian only	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander only	Some Other Race only	2 or More Races
Arkansas	5,069	3,387	1,659	6	16	0	1	43
Ashley	6,151	3,975	2,158	4	11	2	1	51
Baxter	7,042	6,948	23	44	23	3	1	99
Benton	34,609	33,049	179	855	454	49	23	826
Boone	7,901	7,791	23	57	25	1	4	87
Bradley	2,655	1,596	1,050	4	0	0	5	32
Calhoun	1,366	964	396	3	1	0	2	14
Carroll	5,089	4,991	10	61	18	7	2	77
Chicot	3,690	1,174	2,496	4	10	1	5	35
Clark	4,819	3,301	1,468	27	19	3	1	88
Clay	3,980	3,936	11	28	3	0	2	27
Cleburne	4,979	4,917	17	26	16	1	2	50
Cleveland	2,178	1,758	409	7	0	0	4	24
Columbia	6,303	3,340	2,916	16	13	1	17	56
Conway	4,927	4,071	808	24	15	4	5	107
Craighead	18,920	16,443	2,268	65	100	5	39	281
Crawford	13,874	13,099	166	391	201	5	12	407
Crittenden	15,469	6,154	9,201	36	54	4	20	112
Cross	5,326	3,609	1,685	17	12	0	3	41
Dallas	2,317	1,135	1,169	5	6	0	2	25
Desha	4,214	1,681	2,503	13	15	1	1	26
Drew	4,630	3,010	1,586	13	14	1	6	68
Faulkner	21,143	18,632	2,256	112	93	7	43	320
Franklin	4,439	4,336	38	45	12	3	5	51
Fulton	2,596	2,565	16	9	3	0	3	28
Garland	17,562	15,137	2,160	116	115	5	29	447
Grant	4,162	4,027	105	19	5	2	4	33
Greene	9,097	9,017	25	27	15	3	10	154
Hempstead	5,590	3,190	2,354	15	10	1	20	129
Hot Spring	7,293	6,246	973	35	22	3	14	132
Howard	3,539	2,453	1,036	20	22	1	7	34
Independence	8,065	7,718	230	34	69	4	10	145
Izard	2,680	2,631	18	26	3	0	2	37
Jackson	3,954	3,085	852	10	5	0	2	53
Jefferson	21,655	8,208	13,219	41	144	11	32	231

Johnson	5,134	4,967	117	32	13	0	5	75
Lafayette	2,129	1,119	994	11	5	0	0	16
Lawrence	4,169	4,122	16	25	3	2	1	38
Lee	3,209	907	2,295	4	3	0	0	14
Lincoln	3,069	1,935	1,116	15	1	0	2	41
Little River	3,239	2,336	834	57	6	2	4	90
Logan	5,620	5,511	59	37	7	4	2	103
Lonoke	14,594	13,344	1,110	67	57	5	11	221
Madison	3,619	3,553	3	59	0	3	1	43
Marion	3,487	3,439	13	31	3	1	0	42
Miller	10,284	7,052	3,101	80	35	4	12	206
Mississippi	14,689	7,955	6,656	30	35	3	10	238
Monroe	2,770	1,317	1,438	4	4	0	7	46
Montgomery	2,050	1,990	8	35	14	1	2	27
Nevada	2,433	1,509	913	9	0	0	2	16
Newton	2,080	2,052	8	10	5	0	5	20
Ouachita	7,297	3,770	3,481	20	14	1	11	86
Perry	2,502	2,424	59	17	2	0	0	31
Phillips	8,302	2,180	6,077	17	18	0	10	57
Pike	2,621	2,462	128	23	6	0	2	39
Poinsett	6,466	5,750	689	10	13	0	4	53
Polk	4,781	4,651	16	99	7	3	5	110
Pope	13,201	12,544	481	83	75	1	17	245
Prairie	2,239	1,779	443	8	6	0	3	17
Pulaski	86,396	46,302	38,581	306	1002	20	185	1913
Randolph	4,364	4,276	67	20	1	0	0	50
St. Francis	7,992	2,851	5,084	9	44	1	3	70
Saline	20,585	19,736	589	106	129	7	18	270
Scott	2,654	2,561	5	47	41	0	0	43
Searcy	1,799	1,779	1	14	4	0	1	32
Sebastian	25,821	21,599	2,444	573	1162	9	34	1128
Sevier	3,063	2,739	228	93	0	1	2	81
Sharp	3,620	3,551	30	29	8	0	2	59
Stone	2,461	2,434	4	20	1	0	2	55
Union	11,528	6,671	4,780	29	40	0	8	135
Van Buren	3,346	3,276	17	31	14	2	6	65
Washington	33,470	31,105	942	509	504	354	56	1118
White	15,660	14,757	757	68	56	7	15	323
Woodruff	2,219	1,320	892	4	1	1	1	30
Yell	4,403	4,235	87	36	45	0	0	89
STATE	636,648	485,434	140,046	4,892	4,928	560	788	11,705

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